

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN PINT ARA

SUBJECT: INITIAL INDICATIONS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION'S LAND
REFORM POLICIES

1. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO DETERMINE HOW RHETORIC WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION, THE ABSENCE TO DATE OF ANY SPECIFIC ENDORSEMENT BY LOPEZ PORTILLO OF RECENT LAND EXPROPRIATIONS BY THE ECHEVERRIA GOVERNMENT MAY INDICATE THAT HE WILL TAKE A MORE CONSERVATIVE TACK IN AGRARIAN REFORM MEASURES. NEW SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM, JORGE ROJO LUGO, HAS STATED THAT HIS POLICY WILL BE TO SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LAW STRICTLY TO THE LETTER, ADDING THAT HE WILL TOLERATE NEITHER ILLEGAL HOLDINGS BY LANDOWNERS NOR LAND INVASIONS BY CAMPESINOS. HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR CREATING MORE SOURCES OF JOBS IN THE RURAL SECTOR, WHICH HE SAID WOULD REDUCE THE CURRENT DEMANDS FOR LAND BY CAMPESINOS AND WOULD FURTHER PREPARE FOR THE COMING DAY WHEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE LAND TO DISTRIBUTE. HE SAID FURTHER THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO IS DETERMINED TO ACCOMPANY LAND DISTRIBUTIONS WITH THE NECESSARY MEANS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION, MEANING READY CREDIT AND ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. NEW SUBSECRETARY FOR AGRARIAN AFFAIRS UNDER ROJO, MIGUEL OSORIO MARBAN, SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL FOLLOW THE SAME BASIC POLICY AS HIS PREDECESSOR.

2. ROJO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL SEND TO
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CONGRESS A PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF JURISDICTIONAL

TRIBUNALS WHICH WILL INTERPRET AND APPLY THE FEDERAL AGRARIAN REFORM LAW, THEREBY REMOVING SOME OF THE IMPORTANT LEGAL FUNCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRARIAN REFORM. THIS APPEARS IN KEEPING WITH THE STRESS ON STRICT LEGAL APPLICATIONS.

3. PROBLEMS FACING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ARE CERTAINLY CHALLENGING. THE SITUATION IN THE STATE OF SINALOA, SITE OF RECENT MASSIVE LAND INVASIONS, CONTINUES TO BE TENSE AS POLICE HAVE BEGUN TO EVICT INVADERS FROM ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED LANDS. IN SONORA, GOV. CARRILLO HAS STATED HE WILL SEEK TO ACHIEVE THE SAME ENDS THROUGH DIALOGUE RATHER THAN BY POLICE ACTION. AT THIS WRITING THE MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS THAT CLOSE TO 2,000 CAMPESINOS ARE OCCUPYING SECRETARIAT OF AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICES IN MEXICO CITY IN A DEMONSTRATION TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM EXISTING MAJOR CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS AND TO CALL FOR A NEW LEFTIST COALITION. THEY ARE DEMANDING ADDITIONAL EXPROPRIATIONS AND ARE DENOUNCING BY NAME ALLEGED HOLDERS OF ILLEGAL LANDS. JOVA

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